

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Soviet Military Activities in the
Neuruppin Area

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report which
gives information on the following: (1) Fontane-Schule, (2) See Kaserne,
(3) Fuel Depot, Trenkmann Strasse, (4) Gentzrode Training Area, (5) River
Crossing Exercises.

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SECRETEAST GERMANYMILITARYSoviet activity, NEURUPPIN

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1. FONTANE-SCHULE

The Fontane-Schule in the Neustädter Strasse has been vacated by the driving instruction unit since January 1958. It is not known where this unit has gone. The school will probably be returned to civilian use.

2. SEE KASERNE

On 20 Dec 57 at 1500 hours, 8 x rocket launchers were seen in the barrack square. They had short, round tubes in two tiers, 6 tubes per tier. The rocket launchers were being cleaned.

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3. FUEL DEPOT, TRENKMANN STRASSE

The P.O.L. depot in the Trenkmann Strasse has been moved 20-30 metres north-east, so that it is nearer the sheds where the tanks, guns and rocket launchers are kept.

4. A wooden fence, 2 metres high, blocks the view of the new P.O.L. depot. Garden plots were requisitioned to make room for the new depot area.

5. The area previously occupied by the depot is now used for scaling exercises, obstacles such as trenches, walls, etc. having been made.

6. [] there are ten old wooden sheds, roughly 40 metres long, belonging to the See Kaserne. Two additional sheds were added to the west of the old ones in 1956. They are wooden and brick structures, 100 metres long.

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7. Accommodation for the Soviet Army exists NW of the former railway station at PAULINENAUE.

8. Between the station of PAULINENAUE and the sheds described in para. 3 above, is a built-up area containing villas, where Russian officers are quartered. []

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9. GENTZRODE TRAINING AREA

On 18 Dec 57, at 1000 hours, 3 x T34/85 and 5 x T-54 arrived at the GENTZRODE training area. They took part in field firing training. The tanks shot at targets 2.5 to 3 kms. away. They shot in staggered formation from the area [] singly and in groups.

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10. RIVER CROSSING EXERCISES

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On 12 Dec 57 at 0730 hours a bridge spanned the bottle-neck of the WOLCHOW SEE [] The bridge had no railings and the roadway width was approximately 4.5 - 5 metres. The bridge was secured to the banks by permanent moorings.

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11. The roadway rested on pontoon sections. Each pontoon section was of two pontoons connected together. One pontoon had a cut-away bow, the stern pontoon having vertical ends. The pontoon sections were roughly 3 metres apart and approximately 0.70 cms. out of water when the bridge was not loaded.
12. The roadway, which was made of planks approximately 25 cms. wide and 8 cms. thick, rested on U-irons placed across the pontoon sections in the normal manner.
13. There were about 30 Soviet engineers at each bank. On the west bank there were 25-30 ZIS-151, one of which was fitted with a crane.
14. Between 0730 and 0815 the following vehicles passed over the bridge from west to east:
 - (a) 17 x T-54.
 - (b) 6 x JSU-122.
 - (c) 7 x 3-axled amphibians.
 - (d) 3 x tracked amphibians.
 - (e) 7 x amphibious tanks.
15. All vehicles came from the direction of the PANZER Kaserne in the Alt Ruppiner Chaussee. After crossing the bridge, the vehicles drove away in a northerly direction. There were never more than three vehicles on the bridge at the same time, and vehicles were 15 - 20 metres apart.

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